

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. By forcing stations across the country to air one-sided programs like "Stolen Honor" weeks before an important election, without airing a pro-Kerry program as well, Sinclair Broadcasting is not serving the public interest in a balanced way.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get less diversity in opinion and presentation, less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of news produced at corporate headquarters, it is more important that we the people see real folks from our own communities and substantive news about issues that matter, that we receive local, national and international news from a range of perspectives.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for your time and attention.